

Fire Officer I – Assignment #16
Utah Fire and Rescue Academy

Situation:

You are the company officer. Your crew has just extinguished a fire in a home owned by a known local drug dealer. A police officer on scene has advised you that local PD has arrested the owner multiple times for drugs and weapons violations. The first attack team reported to you aggressive and abnormal fire behavior (large body of flames and repeated re-ignition) in the living room and down the hallway to the bedroom area.

After ventilating the home, you are able to conduct a preliminary fire cause investigation. You sketch out a map and document strange burn patterns in the carpet. You also notice a broken out bedroom window; most of the glass is inside the room. Your firefighters deny breaking it during extinguishment or ventilation. You notice a 5-gallon gas can in the garage.

The officer states that a man has just been arrested for assaulting the homeowner at a construction site where the homeowner works. The suspect in that arrest has singed hair on his face, head, and arms.

Assignment:

1. Prepare a report of the preliminary fire cause determination as follows:
 - a. Document your chain of custody and your plan for securing the scene.
 - b. Note the information, indicators, and observations that lead you to your conclusions. (Just the facts, not perceptions, as this is going to court.)
 - c. Describe what you believe would be of value as evidence.
 - d. Detail any notifications you would make at this time.
 - e. Identify how you would secure the scene and protect possible evidence.
 - f. Create a final, definitive statement outlining your preliminary determination of the cause of the fire.

Requirements:

1. Type your report in narrative form, double-spaced, using a word processing or other data entry software program. Be sure to proofread for grammar and spelling.
2. Make your report professional and worthy of presentation to your chief.
3. Submit the assignment electronically as a .doc or .docx.

State Skill #13, #14